



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **TWO TYLER JET EXECUTIVES SENTENCED**

*Company president and CFO received 72 months and 42 months in prison*

TYLER, Texas—Two former executives of the Tyler Jet Co. were sentenced to federal prison for money laundering, following a multi-agency investigation, which included U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Timothy J. Beverley, 48, of Tyler, was sentenced to 72 months in prison and Gregory A. Hopper, 50, also of Tyler, was sentenced to 42 months in prison. Beverley and Hopper were sentenced today by U.S. District Judge Leonard Davis for engaging in money laundering.

Beverley was the president and manager of Tyler Jet, a Tyler company which bought, sold and refurbished jet aircraft before being forced into bankruptcy in 2002. Hopper was the Chief Financial Officer.

According to information presented in court, Beverley and Hopper specifically admitted that they provided a repair estimate to a bank and a Florida company to have the Florida company secure a loan from the bank to repair an airplane. However, after the \$300,000 loan was obtained, Beverley and Hopper diverted \$280,000 of the loan proceeds to Tyler Jet for their own purposes, and the repairs were never done. The defendants pleaded guilty in January 2004. They each signed plea agreements admitting to widespread fraud involving between \$10 million and \$20 million.

In addition to their prison sentences, Beverley and Hopper were jointly ordered to pay restitution of \$18,171,756.51.

Matthew D. Orwig, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas, was pleased with the sentencing, "Individuals in the Eastern District of Texas can expect to be held personally accountable for their fraudulent conduct while under the guise of business dealings. We will continue to aggressively pursue and prosecute people who engage in this type of criminal fraud."

Orwig also praised the combined efforts of the law enforcement agencies involved in the complex and lengthy investigation.

"Complex cases like this require thorough coordination and cooperation of all law enforcement agencies involved," said Kenneth W. Cates, special agent-in-charge for Dallas U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). "Our ICE special agents worked closely with these other agencies to combine our unique expertise and enforcement authorities for the U.S. Attorney's Office to successfully prosecute the case."

The federal law enforcement agencies of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the FBI, and the Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation Division investigated the case.

Assistant U.S. Attorneys Gregg Marchessault, Tom Gibson and Bill Baldwin prosecuted the case.

### **#ICE#**

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities*